

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 13-21 are pending. Currently, claims 1-9 and 13-21 stand as rejected, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection based upon the following comments.

Double Patenting Rejections

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-6 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of co-pending Application No. 10/431,135. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,899,984. Applicants note that Application No. 10/431,135 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,899,984, and therefore there is only one double patenting rejection. Applicants have included an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,899,984, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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